

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/606,025

Applicant(s)

MORAVCSIK, JULIA E.

Examiner

NICHOLAS AUGUSTINE

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/08/2009.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

- A. This action is in response to the following communications: Request for Continued Examination filed 09/21/2009.
- B. Claims 1 and 3-11 remains pending.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

- C. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09/21/2009 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gorbet et al (US Pat. 6,542,163), herein referred to as "Gorbet" in view of Vaghi, Nino (US Pat. 6,474,882), herein referred to as "Vaghi".

As for independent claim 1, Gorbet method for controlling of an operator-controlled image forming machine by a user, comprising the steps of: providing a graphical user interface on the image forming machine in a first mode of operation, wherein a first image machine control element is shown on a first screen having a plurality of activatable areas corresponding to a subset of preset feature values and inactivatable areas corresponding to a second screen associated with preset feature values (*col.2, lines 1-23 explain a in-inactivatable help display as taught by prior art; col.8, line 53 – col.9, line 18 teaches how the prior art method "default help" can be display as well as the currently improved method of help as described by Gorbet; in other words, Gorbet shows that when help information is needed to be displayed a tip balloon 80 (window) with activatable areas (buttons) is displayed to the user where the help information is a subset (a limited amount of help information) of preset feature values (currently displayed editable data). The user is also able to view an inactivatable area called "default (home) help window" which described by the prior art in col.2, lines 1-23 as inactivatable areas that is presented in a different window as mentioned in col.8, lines 53-67*); receiving an invocation by the user representative of a request for the functionality of the first control element (*col.5, lines 34-35*); providing a controller and determining the current status condition of the first control element among a predetermined plurality of status conditions which includes an inactive control element condition and an active control element condition (*col.5, line 54*); displaying the active control element condition on a first

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screen and displaying the inactive control element condition on a second screen (col.5, lines 9-26 and col.6,lines 19-32); in response to an invocation of the functionality of the first control element when the current status of the first control element is the inactive control element, changing the graphical user interface to an intermediate screen (col.5, line 59; col.6,lines 19-32), wherein context-sensitive help information is provided in the intermediate screen (col.5, line 62); providing a second control element on the intermediate screen, the second control element being operable to enable the user to select an automated procedure so as to change the current status of the first control element to a second status condition of the active control element condition; in response to receiving selection of the automated procedure, performing the automated procedure so as to cause the status of the first control element to be changed to the second status condition of the active control element condition and removing the intermediate screen on the graphical user interface (col.5,lines 9-26 and col.6, lines 19-32); and in response to completion of the automated procedure changing the graphical user interface to a third mode of operation, such that each preset feature value within the set of preset feature values has an activatable area associated therewith (col.8,lines 41-65) wherein the invoked functionality of the first control element is made available to the user (col.5, lines 63-65) and changing the appearance of the control element so as to indicate the changeover to the second status condition. "(col.6, lines 19-36). Gorbet in summary teaches a graphical user interface which provides context help information when the user causes an event within the graphical user interface which poses as a problem

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that the event/request could not go through and be executed or executing said request would cause unwanted effects, Gorbet further goes on to give automated procedure choices to the user wherein the user can select an automated procedure to go through and perform a desired request by the user that a typical user would not be able to do without the context help information. Thus in respect to independent claim 1 the Examiner believes Gorbet teaches each and every aspect of the immediate application pertaining to claim 1, because Gorbet teaches that the system listens for an event or trigger to display context help information and does not limit to any one kind of event or trigger.

Gorbet does not specifically teach that the method is used on a printer device "A method for controlling of an operator-controlled printer by a user". Gorbet describes that the method in general context is computer-executable instructions, such as application modules, being executed by a personal computer wherein practiced with personal computers, handheld devices, multiprocessor systems, microprocessor-based or programmable consumer electronics, network PCs, minicomputers, etc...(col.6, lines 37-56). However in the same field of endeavor Vaghi describes a computing system that has a built-in printer and thus is a printer device with a display device for displaying an interface wherein the user is able to interact within the interface to among other things operate the device as a printer (col.2, lines 26-29). Vaghi describes the computing device as being "personal computer, desktop computer, a portable computer, laptop, notebook, PDA and hand-held computers, internet web appliances (col.5, lines 45-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

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invention to combine Vaghi into Gorbet, this is true because Vaghi's computing environment is a "personal computer" which is the same as Gorbet's computing environment, "personal computer", wherein the combination of Vaghi into Gorbet permits the computer implemented method (executable instructions) of Gorbet to be ran on the computing device of Vaghi which has a built in printer and is thus a printing device (printer).

As for dependent claim 3, Gorbet teaches the method of claim 2-1, further comprising the steps of graphically representing the current status condition of the first control element in the graphical user interface (col.6, lines 19-36).

As for dependent claim 4, Gorbet teaches the method of claim 3, further comprising the step of providing a change in the appearance of the first control element in the third mode of operation corresponding to the change from the first status condition to the second status condition (col.6, lines 19-36).

As for dependent claim 5, Gorbet teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising the step of altering the appearance of at least a portion of the first control element to reflect the status currently set for the first control element relative to the available

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functionality of the first control element (figure 2B; control element is underlined and graphical rendering of a context help dialog box is displayed to the user).

As for dependent claim 7, Gorbet teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the context-sensitive help indicates a basis for the first status condition of the first control element (col.5, lines 63-65).

As for dependent claim 8, Gorbet teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a third control element operable by the user for causing the graphical user interface to return to the first mode of operation (col.5, line 65; control is resolved back to previous state if the user declines the context help automated procedure).

As for dependent claim 9, Gorbet teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the invocation of the functionality of the first control element is performed by operation of a cursor-based input system (col.7, line 32).

As for dependent claim 10, Gorbet teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the invocation of the functionality of the first control element is performed by operation of a touch screen input system (col.6, lines 46-56).

As for dependent claim 11, Gorbet teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the help information comprises an explanation of the inactive control element condition of the first control element (figure 2B).

3. Claim 6 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gorbet in view of Vaghi in further view of Wantuck et al (US 6,134,019), herein referred to as "Wantuck".

As for dependent claim 6, Gorbet teaches the method of claim 5, wherein the appearance of at least a portion of the first control element is in a placeholder during a status condition for the first control element of inactive functionality (col.8, lines 12-29; figure 2A, item 73: the placeholder indicates that the function the user wants is unavailable/ can not happen (said function: desired input of a text format and text length). Gorbet in view of Vaghi is vague to how the placeholder can take form, and only seems to depict that of outlining the problem area which is unavailable to the user at the current time and not specifically by the means of graying out the area. However in the same field of endeavor, Wantuck teaches a help system wherein a portion of the first control element is grayed out during a status condition for the first control element of inactive functionality (col.5, lines 52-62). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the graphical indication of

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graying out an area in a graphical user interface for indication purposes of Wantuck into the context help system which outlines a portion the graphical user interface for indication purposes of Gorbet to yield the predictable result of a grayed out portion to indicate to the user of a problem or unavailability of portion of the user interface. All the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

(Note :) It is noted that any citation to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. In re Heck, 699 F.2d 1331, 1332-33, 216 USPQ 1038, 1039 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (quoting In re Lemelson, 397 F.2d 1006, 1009, 158 USPQ 275, 277 (CCPA 1968)).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 3-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Inquires

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Augustine whose telephone number

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is 571-270-1056 and fax is 571-270-2056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday: 9:30am- 5:00pm Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nicholas Augustine/
Examiner
Art Unit 2179
December 14, 2009

/Ba Huynh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2179